

Appl. No. 10/086,765

Amendment dated July 30, 2004

Reply to Office Action of December 18, 2003 and Telephonic Interviews of July 28 and 30, 2004

**REMARKS**

Applicants have received and reviewed an Office Action dated August 18, 2003 and considered the telephonic interview with Examiner Pryor of July 28, 2004. By way of response, Applicants have canceled claims 1-20, 22, 28, 34, 40, 51-55 and 61-65 without prejudice, amended claims 21, 23-27, 29-33, 35-39, 41-42, 45-47, 50, 56-60, and 66-70, and added new claims 71. No new matter is presented. Claims 21, 23-27, 29-33, 35-39, 41-50, 56-60 and 66-71 are pending. Applicants submit that the pending claims are supported by the specification.

During the telephonic interviews on July 28 and 30, 2004, the Examiner and Applicants' undersigned representative discussed the above amendments to the claims and that they would place the application in condition for allowance.

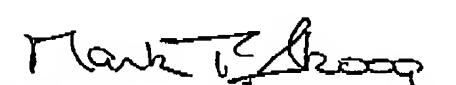
Accordingly, Applicants submit that the amended claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Merchant & Gould P.C.  
P.O. Box 2903  
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903  
612/332-5300

Dated: July 30, 2004

By:

  
Mark T. Skoog  
Reg. No. 40,178  
MTS:sab

23552